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Letter dated 22 May 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to transmit the attached letter, dated 9 May 2018, from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Jens Stoltenberg, transmitting the report on the international security presence in Kosovo, covering the period from 1 January to 31 March 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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Annex

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), please find attached the quarterly report on Kosovo Force operations covering the period from 1 January to 31 March 2018 (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making the report available to the members of the Council.

(*Signed*) Jens **Stoltenberg**

Enclosure

Report to the United Nations on Kosovo Force operations

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and covers the Kosovo Force (KFOR) activities in the period from 1 January to 31 March 2018.

2. As at 31 March 2018, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre remained approximately 4,100, from 19 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and 8 non-NATO troop-contributing nations.

3. There was no requirement for KFOR intervention during the reporting period.

Security situation update and operations

4. During the reporting period, there were no significant changes to the overall security situation in Kosovo, which remains generally stable, but fragile. There have been no major disturbances that have significantly affected the safe and secure environment and freedom of movement.

5. KFOR conducted routine framework operations across the area of operations, with joint regional detachments maintaining close contact with the population. KFOR closely monitored events pertaining to the tenth anniversary celebrations of Kosovo and remained poised to adjust its posture when needed. Events held throughout the 10-day period were reported as calm.

6. Owing to security concerns associated with the murder of political representative Oliver Ivanovic on 16 January 2018, the Commander of KFOR met with the Chief of the General Staff of the Serbian Armed Forces in Belgrade on 18 January 2018. KFOR also temporarily increased its patrolling activities in the Mitrovica North area in order to enhance situational awareness. No security incidents were reported.

7. On 6 March 2018, KFOR organized the International Conference on Women, Peace and Security in Kosovo at Camp Film City, in Pristina. The conference served as a platform for international organizations, non-governmental organizations, KFOR and NATO, as well as Kosovo security organizations, to discuss security and gender-related topics.

8. On 26 March 2018, Serb politician Marko Djuric travelled to Mitrovica for a round-table conference on the Serbia internal dialogue on Kosovo. According to the security organizations in Kosovo, the visit did not seem to comply with the arrangement on official visits, although Serbia disputes this. Shortly after the start of the meeting, Kosovo police special operations units detained Mr. Djuric, before returning him to Serbia approximately two hours later. In unrest associated with the incident, at least 22 civilians were reported injured. KFOR closely monitored the situation and, on 27 March 2018, deployed forces near Mitrovica to improve situational awareness, but was not required to intervene. By 28 March 2018, the situation had returned to normal.

Summary

9. KFOR continues to contribute to maintaining both a safe and secure environment and ensuring freedom of movement as part of a comprehensive international effort. The close coordination on the ground between KFOR (in its capacity as third responder), the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and Kosovo police continues to be highly effective.